

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 181

By West

A RESOLUTION to designate a segment of Interstate Highway 40 in Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County as the "Officer Christy Jo Dedman Memorial Highway".

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their own concerns to ensure our collective freedom and personal safety, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, in providing for the domestic tranquility of the community as a whole, society recognizes the need for a system of laws; the enforcement of the law has been entrusted to a small number of dedicated individuals who daily face the rigors of human conflict in protecting those whom they so selflessly serve; and

WHEREAS, the people of Tennessee are fortunate to be served by the brave and dedicated law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line while carrying out their essential duties; and

WHEREAS, Officer Christy Dedman of the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department was one such outstanding public servant; citizens across the state and the members of the General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of her tragic and untimely death in the line of duty on July 19, 2004; and

WHEREAS, Officer Dedman had just begun her dedicated service with the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department, having served for eleven months on the force; she truly enjoyed being a police officer, and she evidenced uncommon dedication to her duties despite the long hours and the uncertain and often dangerous nature of her profession; and

WHEREAS, despite being new to the police force, Officer Dedman performed her appointed duties in an admirable manner that distinguished her as a credit to both her community and her profession; Metropolitan Nashville was undoubtedly made a better and safer place to live during her service; and

WHEREAS, a great tragedy befell the State of Tennessee on the fateful day of July 19, 2004, when Officer Dedman was fatally injured while protecting a citizen who was experiencing car trouble on the shoulder of a dangerous section of Interstate Highway 40 near Stewart's Ferry Pike in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County, and indeed the entire State, are now feeling the deep pain produced by this terrible and wasteful loss of one of our best and brightest law enforcement officers; and

WHEREAS, on July 21, 2004, in recognition of her conviction, character, talents, and her brave and able service during her tenure with the force, Officer Christy Dedman was posthumously presented with the Medal of Valor, the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department's highest honor; and

WHEREAS, Officer Dedman was a highly respected member of her community, not only as a law enforcement professional who served and protected her fellow citizens, but also as a friend and a neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Christy Dedman had earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice at Austin Peay State University; at the time of her passing, she was also nearing completion of a Master's degree from Middle Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, Officer Dedman regarded her work as an officer to be of the utmost significance; her loyalty and commitment to justice fueled her determination to become an officer of the law, which she did following graduation from the Metro Police Training Academy on July 28, 2003; and

WHEREAS, as her commitment to serving others was fueled by her Christian devotion, Officer Dedman toiled with great resolve at creating a community of peace and justice while remaining a bastion of compassion to her friends and neighbors; and

WHEREAS, Officer Dedman leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity, probity, and valor in her public life as a law enforcement officer, compassion and loyalty in private life, and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly wishes to permanently commemorate the bountiful life of this exceptional police officer and human being by naming a segment of Interstate Highway 40 in her honor; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that Interstate Highway 40 in Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County from Exit 219 (Stewarts Ferry Pike) eastward to the Davidson County - Wilson County boundary is hereby designated the "Officer Christy Jo Dedman Memorial Highway" as a lasting tribute to an exemplary public servant who made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting her community and fellow citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the department of transportation is directed to erect suitable markers or to affix suitable signs designating such segment of Interstate Highway 40 in Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County as the "Officer Christy Jo Dedman Memorial Highway". The cost of such signage shall be funded in accordance with § 54-1-133.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this resolution shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the commissioner of transportation.